



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	Cheung, et al	§	Attorney Docket No.:	MGER.79172/03
		§		
Application No.:	09/936,682	§		
		§		
Filed:	September 17, 2001	§	Examiner:	L. McCartney
		§		
For:	<i>"System and Method for Analyzing and Imaging Three-Dimensional Volume Data Sets"</i>	§		
		§		
		§	Art Unit:	2671
		§		

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Interview Summary

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to MPEP § 713.04, Applicants submit the following summary of the interview with the Examiner initiated on January 22, 2004:

Brief Description of the Nature of any Exhibit Shown or any Demonstration Conducted:

None.

Identification of the Claims Discussed:

Independent Claims 1, 12, 23 and 34 were discussed.

Identification of Specific Prior Art Discussed:

- *Yanof, et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 5,734,384, issued March 31, 1998;
- *Cline, et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 4,984,157, issued January 8, 1991;

- International Publication No. WO 00/14574 published 16 March 2000; and
- *Oil & Gas Journal* article entitled, "Texaco E&P Center Allows Visual Probe of 3D Data Volumes," June 1, 1998, OGI Special, p.47.

Identification of the Principle Proposed Amendments of a Substantive Nature Discussed:

None.

The General Thrust of the Principal Arguments of Applicants and the Examiner:

During the interview, Applicants' representative questioned the Examiner's basis for rejecting independent claims 1 and 12. Applicants' representative further presented arguments that there is no motivation for combining *Oil and Gas Journal* with *Yanof* and/or *Cline*. Examiner McCartney reiterated his position and arguments.

Applicants' representative further suggested that the WO 00/14574 reference did not disclose "interpolating between said first spline curve and said second spline curve to define a three-dimensional surface" Examiner McCartney referred to Fig. 4 of this reference and the section entitled "Interactive Well Planning" to argue that the limitation is disclosed. Examiner Zimmerman suggested that Applicants file a written response.

General Indication Of Any Other Pertinent Matters Discussed:

The Examiner confirmed that he would mark the claims submitted with the September 15, 2003 Response and Amendment "Do Not Enter," as required, and would


confirm that the references cited in the Second Supplemental IDS filed on May 9, 2002 and September 15, 2003 were considered.

General Results or Outcome of the Interview:

See above.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: January 28, 2004


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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via facsimile to the attention of Examiner L. McCartney at fax number (703) 872-9306 on January 28, 2004.

1-28-04
Date


Signature

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